

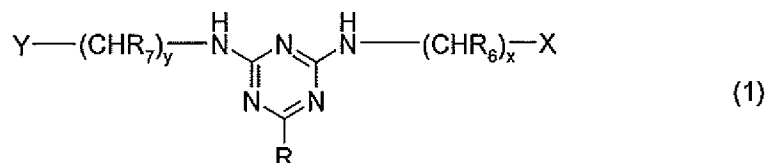
Remarks

Currently pending are claims 1-12.

**35 U.S.C. § 103**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerendas et al. (US Pat. No. 3,963,714) in view of Bartl et al. (WO 03/012194). Applicants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of increasing the depth of shade of dyed natural or synthetic polyamide fibre materials, which comprises treating the fibre material before, during or after dyeing with a liquor comprising a compound of formula (1):



where x, y, R, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are defined as above and X and Y are, each independently of the other, mercapto, or -NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>, wherein R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are, each independently of the other, hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl.

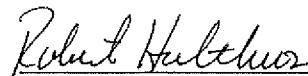
In comparison, Gerendas et al. teach the use of quaternary ammonium salts as a retarder in the dyeing of polyacrylonitrile fibers. Thus, Gerendas et al.'s method treats a completely different substrate (polyacrylonitrile fibers) with a completely different compound (quaternary ammonium salt) than Applicants presently claimed method (i.e. synthetic polyamide fibers and a compound of formula (1)). Such a compound of formula (1) is neither expressly taught nor suggested by Gerendas et al. Bartl et al. was added for the purpose of teaching a method for dyeing or printing polyamide microfibres.

However, Bartl et al. also does not expressly disclose or suggest treating such microfibrils with a compound of formula (1). Therefore, claims 1-5 and 11 are clearly distinguished from the publications cited above and are not obvious in view of the combination of such publications.

The Examiner also rejected claims 6-10 and 12 as being unpatentable over the publications cited and further in view of Perrin et al. (US Pat. No. 4,180,664) and claims 1-12 as being unpatentable over Perrin et al. in view of Gerendas et al. and Bartl et al. However, Perrin et al.'s teachings, like Gerendas et al.'s, are directed to the use of quaternary ammonium salts in treating fibers. Perrin et al., like Gerendas et al., neither expressly teaches nor suggests a method of treating fiber material with a compound of formula (1) as presently claimed. Therefore, the above combination of publications does not render any of claims 1-12 obvious and Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

Should any fee be due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to deduct said fee from Huntsman Corporation Deposit Account No. 08-3442.

Respectfully Submitted,



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